

**TOWN OF MANSFIELD**  
**OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU**

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Patricia Michalak, MA  
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator



YSB Advisory Minutes  
November 10, 2015  
12:00 noon @ Mansfield Town Hall  
Conf. Rm. B

**Board Members**

*Present:*

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair  
Pat Schneider, Director of Human Services  
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator  
Maggie Ferron, Early Childhood Services Coordinator  
Vicki Barbero, MEd, LADC, Program Director, Outpatient Co-occurring Substance Use Services  
Chuck Leavens, E.O. Smith Representative  
Eileen Griffin, LCSW  
Annastasia Martineau, Senior at EO Smith High School and Mansfield Resident

**I. Call to Order**

- Meeting called to order at 12:08 PM by Ethel Mantzaris.

**II. Introduction of Prospective New Members of Advisory Board:**

- Vicki Barbero, MEd, LADC, Program Director, Outpatient Co-occurring Substance Use Services
- Annastasia Martineau, Senior at EO Smith High School and a Mansfield resident

**III. Approval of minutes**

- Approval of minutes 11/10/15

**IV. Reports**

- Director's Report – Patricia Schneider
  - There has been significant personnel turnover and staff is working on transitioning and orienting.
  - Clinical Social Work position will be open, full time, after some review of job descriptions
  - Collections and sponsorships for families are being prepared for the holiday program

**V.**

- Coordinator's Report – Patricia Michalak

**New Advisory Board Member:** Julie Menard; Social Worker State of CT. Department of Developmental Services. Mansfield resident and parent of to adult children who have been through the Mansfield school system. She will be joining us in December for the next advisory board.

**“Kids Night Out”:** Interns, Lauren Scharn and Brianna McMillan, are coordinating with the school psychologist, Shamim Patwa, at Goodwin Elementary to provide a night of fun for children with special needs.

**PAWS:** Planning for the annual PAWS leadership conference has begun.

**Parent Group:** Happening in conjunction with Big Friends. As children are interacting with their Big Friend, parents can convene for a support group in which social supports are provide for recently located families. Building on the success from the previous month, there are over 10 parents participation.

**Trends:** Middle school referrals have most recently been reflecting students with anxiety, school avoidance, and peer related issues. Elementary school referrals have reflected issues associated with a number of new families relocating to the town with children who have previously diagnosed conditions.

**LEAP Transition to Middle School:** The new superintendent, Kelly Lyman has given her support to collaborate with the school personnel. In addition to the P.E. teachers, the following professionals have expressed an interest in working with us:

Mike DiCicco – Grade 5 teacher  
Eileen Melody – School Counselor – MMS  
Tricia Hamlin – School Psychologist – MMS  
Lauren Rodriguez – Principal, Southeast Elementary

**Conversation Club:** had first session at Holinko Estates playground, next weekend at MCC. Not a huge turnout, but some families and made some connections.

**School Readiness Grant:** We have filled all 19 spaces putting us at full capacity.

## **VI. Old Business:**

- Playground Grand Opening: lots of kids, it’s been packed since it opened! Lots of new friendships and connections between kids & parents

## **VII. New Business:**

- Mansfield Middle School- Power School- working with Big Friends and parents to encourage the use and understanding of the program
- Family Emergency Safety/Preparedness Fair- discussed plans for the fair with Cara Webb at senior center and Fran Raiola, the Director of

Emergency Management. We are now working with Parks and Recreation to set a date.

- Recruitment of new Advisory Board members- the Board has gained three new members

**VIII. Other:**

- **None**

**IX. Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 12:41pm, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 is the next meeting.